

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2011

Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
United States Army
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0110

Dear Secretary McHugh:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with our delegation today regarding the future of the Rock Island Arsenal. We appreciate the value of your time, and your attention to our concerns is much appreciated.

As you know from our letter of May 27th and our conversation today, we are especially concerned about jobs and workload at Rock Island's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC); the planned expense of programmed funds to locate the Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC) in Huntsville, AL, away from one of its primary customers, the Army Sustainment Command (ASC); and rumors of another round of base closures.

As we discussed, Army Materiel Command (AMC) recently formed an internal task force charged with recommending cutting \$3 billion from the overall AMC budget in July. We were reassured today to hear that there are not currently plans to close the JMTC as a result of this task force study, and that the Arsenal is currently "not a target." We will be closely following the progress of this study and look forward to working with you to promote a strong future for the JMTC, Rock Island Arsenal, and the Army. As noted in our May 27th letter, closing or relocating JMTC will not provide the needed cost savings, and would negatively impact our national security. As the bipartisan congressional delegation representing Rock Island Arsenal requested in our May 26th letter, we would appreciate the chance to meet with you in person and to receive a briefing and report on the process of the task force before it renders its recommendations in July.

We also appreciate the need for efficiencies that you and the entire Department of Defense are facing. We therefore greatly appreciate your willingness to investigate and review the programming of \$28 million for a new facility in Huntsville to house, in part, the ECC. This construction is not only a waste of taxpayer money but will reduce Army efficiencies as noted in our letter of May 27th.

Finally, as we noted, rumors of another round of base closures heighten concern regarding the impact near term actions such as those referenced above may have on the potential closure of Rock Island Arsenal. We therefore appreciate your willingness to reassure us and look forward to hearing from you as the study progresses. We are grateful for your efforts to support this nation's warfighter and our national security interests.

Thank you for your service to this nation.

Sincerely,



Bobby Schilling

United States Representative



Dave Loebsack

United States Representative



Bruce Braley

United States Representative